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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
UNITED DISTRICTS OF SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE
FOR THE YEAR 1940

To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee for the United Districts of South-West Cheshire.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

Much of the routine work of the Departments was interrupted by problems of Civil Defence and Evacuation.

Generally the state of the Public Health reviewed from the vital statistics for the first full year of the war was good.

Infectious Diseases are on the whole much reduced.

The Casualty Services of the A.R.P. organisation have been maintained in a state of strength and efficiency. A number of exercises and parades have been successfully held and have demon strated satisfactorily the soundness of the organisation. Much credit is due to the volunteers, including Council officials, who have devoted many hours of their spare time on duty at posts and depots and control centres.

The efficiency of these services has proved itself in a practical way at actual incidents to which they have been summoned.

As regards Evacuation much of the detailed arrangements in this connection were completed in 1939. At the beginning of 1940 many of the evacuees had returned to their homes; and as there was no mass evacuation into the area during the year, there was less activity in this direction than was expected.

I wish to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation which I have received from the members and officials of the Chester and Tarvin Rural District Councils during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

W.J. Birchall, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION AND AREA OF THE COMBINED DISTRICT

Area	106,270 acres.
Census Population, 1921	28,011
Census Population, 1931	28,906
Population, 1940 (Register General's Estimate)	34,760

For Birth and Death Rates vide respective Districts.

The Brith-rate for England and Wales for 1940 was 14.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.0, the figure for 1939.

The Death Rate was 14.3 per 1,000 population: the Rate for 1939 was 12.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate, i.e. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births, was 55.0: the Rate for 1939 was 50.0.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The scheme for the voluntary immunisation of all children resident in the Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts between the ages of 1 and 15 years has continued to operate during the year.

The scheme has received the wholehearted co-operation of private doctors and has been appreciated by the majority of parents.

During the year 1940 the following numbers of children were immunised:-

	Total	under 5 years	aged 5 - 15	unknown
Chester R.D.	134	27	93	14
Tarvin R.D.	169	23	139	7

These figures are encouraging, but are capable of further enlargement.

It is necessary again to draw attention to the fact that in a small percentage of cases the immunisation is apparently ineffective in so far as a small percentage of children subsequently suffer from Diphtheria, though usually in a modified and milder form.

The serum recommended for use is A. P. T. (Alum Precipated Toxoid) in 2 injections, with a minimum of 2 weeks between each injection.

1st injection ..... 0.2 c.c.
2nd injection ..... 0.5 c.c.

Parents of Children in the following Parishes took advantage of the scheme:-

Chester Rural District.

Parish	AGES Under Five	Over Five	Unknown	Total
Backford	-	1	-	1
Barrow	13	83	5	101
Christleton	3	2	4	9
Great Boughton	1	-	-	1
Great Saughall	-	-	1	1
Guilden Sutton	2	2	-	4
Littleton	-	1	-	1
Mickle Trafford	-	-	3	3
Mollington	1	1	-	2
Pulford	1	-	-	1
Upton	5	1	1	7
Wimbolds Trafford	1	2	-	3
	27	93	14	134

Tarvin Rural District.

Parish				
Ashton	-	1	-	1
Beeston	5	4	1	10
Burton	-	7	-	7
Clotton	1	31	1	33
Duddon	1	42	-	43
Handley	1	-	-	1
Huxley	2	5	-	7
Kelsall	11	22	2	35
Stapleford	1	17	-	18
Tarvin	1	4	3	8
Tilston	-	1	-	1
Tilstone Fearnall	-	2	-	2
Willington	2	3	-	5
	25	139	7	171

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT

List of Parishes with Number of Houses at 31st December 1940

Parish	No. of houses at 31/12/40.	No. of houses completed in 1940.
Aldford	91	-
Bache	9	-
Backford	32	-
Barrow	210	-
Bridge Trafford	12	-
Buerton	17	-
Capenhurst	38	-
Caughall	2	-
Chester Castle	1	-
Chorlton-by-Backford	19	-
Christleton	358	1
Churton Heath	3	-
Claverton	-	-
Croughton	6	-
Dodleston	74	1
Dunham-on-the-Hill	104	-
Eaton	19	-
Eccleston	79	-
Elton	99	-
Great Boughton	897	7
Great Saughall	252	-
Guilden Sutton	101	-
Hapsford	26	1
Hoole Village	59	1
Huntington	236	1
Lea-by-Backford	47	-
Lea Newbold	7	-
Ledsham	44	-
Littleton	148	-
Little Saughall	96	-
Little Stanney	78	3
Lower Kinnerton	28	-
Marlston-cum-Lache	32	-
Mickle Trafford	73	-
Mollington	108	2
Moston	21	-
Picton	20	-
Poulton	29	-
Puddington	94	3
Pulford	75	-
Rowton	75	-
Saighton	74	-
Shotwick	19	-
Shotwick Park	20	-
Stoke	20	-
Thornton-le-Moors	46	-
Upton-by-Chester	1,036	12
Wervin	24	-
Wimbolds Trafford	35	-
Woodbank	24	4
	5,017	36

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area.....43,677 acres.

Census Population.....14,518

Resident Population.....19,730
(Registrar General's Estimate).

Number of houses built in 1940..... 39

Rateable Value £115,290. Product of 1d. rate £523.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extension of unemployment.

The chief industry of the District is Dairy Farming.

Unemployment is not pronounced in the District, as a matter of fact the reverse is the case as farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain labour on the land; most of their labour is now being absorbed by factories in the adjoining areas.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1940.

	Total			M.	F.
Live (Legitimate)	247	.....	.....	130	117
Births (Illegitimate)	11	.....	.....	9	2

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13.07.

Still (Legitimate)	7	.....	.....	4	3
Births (Illegitimate)	2	.....	.....	1	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 33.7

DEATHS: Total 217, M. 125
F. 92

Death rate per 1,000 population 10.99
Using a comparability factor of .94 this gives a corrected death rate of 10.33

DEATHS:

No. 29 - Puerperal Sepsis - Nil.
No. 30 - Other maternal causes - Nil.
Total - Nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	M.	F.
Total	11	3

Infant mortality rate, i.e. per 1,000 live births - 53.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	31
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	2

Particulars of unusual or excessive mortality during the year:-

Heart Disease	21 males	25 females
Cancer	18 "	13 "

Heart Disease deaths are 6 less than in 1939.
Cancer deaths are 7 more than in 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
All Causes	125	92
Typhoid & Para-Typhoid	0	1
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1
Influenza	3	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory System)	5	8
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory System)	0	2
Bronchitis	8	4
Pneumonia	5	5
Other respiratory Diseases	7	2
Diabetes	0	1
Cancer	18	13
Nephritis	2	2
Puerperal Diseases	0	0
Premature Birth	7	1
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	2	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	14	5
Heart Disease	21	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Peptic Ulcer	3	0
Digestive Disorders	5	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	2
Suicide	0	1
Other Violent Causes	7	2
Road Traffic Accidents	3	3
All Other Causes	11	8

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary, are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

Infectious diseases are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital under the control of the Wirral Joint Hospital Board, by the Hospital Ambulances.

Accident and sick cases are dealt with by the Chester City Ambulances.

Other cases of sickness are removed to the County General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by ambulances attached to the Hospital.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Home Nursing in the Rural District is undertaken at present in all cases by arrangement with the Chester Nursing Association. Negotiations are complete and have secured a comprehensive scheme of home nursing throughout the District.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation.

The County Council Clinics are available for residents in the area at:-

(a) Hoole - Ante-Natal and Child Welfare.
(b) Chester - Orthopaedic.
(c) Dodleston Home - Instituted by the Chester Rural District Council as a "Sick Bay" for Evacuee children.

(e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the rural district.

Large voluntary and special hospitals are also accessible in Chester and Liverpool respectively.

Officers:

Medical Officer of Health.	W.J. Birchall M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector Cleansing Superintendent and Meat Inspector.	H.E. Stone, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., and Joint Board Certificate for Sanitary Inspector. Liverpool University Certificates for Sanitary Knowledge and Meat and Other Foods. Cambridge University Certificates.
Assistant Meat Inspector.	S. Southern, A.M.S.I.A., Liverpool University Certificate for Meat and Other Foods.
Pupil Clerk.	R.D. Brown.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water. The whole of the District comprising 50 parishes has now a piped supply available with the exception of the Parish of Claverton which is without any dwellings, and the Brown Heath portion of the Parish of Christleton, but here plenty of water of a satisfactory standard is available from wells. It is, however, hoped that on cessation of hostilities a piped supply will be made available.

The undertakers supplying the District are the West Cheshire Water Board, The Chester Waterworks Company, in addition to your own borehole at Plemstall.

Throughout the year the supply has been satisfactorily maintained and periodic samples that have been taken for Chemical Analysis show the various supplies to be of a satisfactory quality.

The hardness of the water from the Council's borehole at Plemstall is showing itself in a more aggravated manner and expense has been caused to Council's and private properties due to the abnormal furring up of pipes in the hot water systems. It is regretted that the Ministry of Health cannot see their way to allow the scheme for softening the water at its source of production to proceed.

The number of connections made to the Council's mains during the year is 27.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Littleton. The sewerage scheme for this parish is now completed and the Tarvin Road Section and Pumping House are in use.

Great Boughton. With the consequent absorption of man-power into the Armed Forces and work of National Importance, the question of the sewerage scheme for this area of Gt. Boughton has been aggravated due to the fact that the Contractors are unable to attend to the emptying of the Cesspools and pail closets with the regularity they demand, but attempts are afoot to secure another Contractor for the work. Owing to the importance of this service and the consequent danger to public health it is to be deplored that the sewerage scheme for this area cannot be proceeded with.

It is hoped that when hostilities cease, schemes of this nature now waiting to be executed in other Parishes will be allowed to proceed without undue delay and form one of the means for the absorption of man-power released from the Forces and elsewhere, and thus help in some small way to relieve labour congestion and prevent a recurrence of 1914-1918 first war labour problems.

Rivers and Streams. Steps have been taken to prevent the pollution of certain streams in the district.

Public Cleansing. This service is increasing in so far as Parishes served are concerned, household refuse being removed once each week,

fortnight or month as set out in the following statement:-

Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
Great Boughton	Huntington	Barrow
Upton and Bache	Christleton	Dunham Hill
	Littleton	Guilden Sutton
		Hoole Village
		Lea-by-Backford
		Rowton
		Marlston-cum-Lache
		Mickle Trafford
		Puddington
		Stoke
		Elton

whilst the following Parishes are scavenged by Contract:-

Monthly.
Great Saughall
Saighton

The refuse is deposited on tips at Upton, Great Boughton and Christleton, all of which are controlled.

In addition to the Council's 7 cu. yard capacity lorry, a further lorry (and labour) has been hired to scavenge all the Parishes cleansed by direct labour.

Shops. There are no shops in your district which employ labour, and it has not been necessary to take any action under the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature or the provision of Sanitary Conveniences.

Smoke Abatement. No observations have been made during the past 12 months.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public situate in your District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. It has not been necessary for action to be taken to rid any premises of bed bugs during the past twelve months.

Evacuation. On the 31st December 1940, there were in your District

116 Unaccompanied Children.
24 Mothers.
37 Accompanied Children.
12 Teachers and Helpers.
36 Aged Adults, Blind Persons and Cripples.

The Sick Bay at Dodleston has been made available for the use of Evacuee Children in the Hoole Urban, and Tarvin Road District areas, and during the year 92 cases were admitted and treated.

The Sick Bay is set aside for Infectious Skin Diseases such as Scabies and Impetigo, no other cases being admitted.

Continued satisfactory service is given by the Matron and Staff at Dodleston Home, and the Matron has been congratulated on the economic manner in which the Home has been run.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of Schools in the District remain satisfactory.

Elton Council School was closed by the County Medical Officer for ten days during March on account of measles.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

1.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 167

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 359

2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ..... Nil.

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... Nil.

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... -

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 66

2.

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers....101

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:

   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 36

   (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

      (a) By Owners..... 36
      (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 30

   (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

      (a) By Owners..... 30
      (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil.

With the exception of a portion of the Woodbank Housing Scheme (2 pairs), no building of new houses has taken place in the district owing to war restrictions.

Inspections were made of 167 houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts involving 359 visits.

SECTION E.

(a) Milk Supply. Inspections of all Farm premises are carried out at irregular intervals, and it is with satisfaction I have to report that the standard of cleanliness and production is maintained.

Sampling is still undertaken by the County Council and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No reports of dirty milk have been received during the past twelve months.

(b) Meat and other Foods. With the commencement of rationing and Food Control, private Registered and Licensed Slaughter Houses were closed, all animals intended for slaughter for human consumption being dealt with at Centralised Slaughter Houses approved by the Ministry of Food. One such Slaughter House is situate at Shed Lane where Pigs are slaughtered under the Bacon Board Slaughter Scheme, whilst the slaughter house at the County Mental Hospital is retained for Institutional slaughter.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	228	12	421	1694	2355
Number Inspected	228	12	421	1694	2355
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned.	2	1	-	-	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	14	-	3	7	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	7.02	8.33	0.95	0.41	
Tuberculosis only:- Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	3	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	43	-	-	49	92
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	18.86	-	-	3.06	

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever.....	22	18
Diphtheria.....	17	12
Enteric Fever..... (including Paratyphoid)	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	-
Pneumonia.....	51	-
Polio Myelitis.....	1	-
Erysipelas.....	5	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	5	4
Measles.....	244	-
Whooping Cough.....	24	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5.....	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15.....	1	1	1	-	1	3	-	-
25.....	3	3	1	-	2	1	-	-
35.....	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
45.....	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	9	5	5	2	5	6	-	-

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF CHESTER DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1940

Name of Sample.	Number Obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Apricots (dried).	1	-
Barley.	1	-
Cheese (Cheshire).	1	-
Cocoa.	1	-
Coffee.	1	-
Cream (tinned).	1	-
Grey Powders.	1	-
Jam.	1	-
Milk.	13	3
Oatmeal.	1	-
Peas (tinned).	1	-
Phenol Ointment.	1	-
Quinine-Ammoniated Tinct. of Caps/Tabs.	1	-
Rice.	1	-
Sago.	1	-
Sal Volatile.	1	-
Salmon (tinned).	1	-
Sardines (tinned).	1	-
Sweets.	1	-
	31	3

CHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.

ADULTERATED OR NON-STANDARD SAMPLES

Milk	Contains	13.3%	of	extraneous	water.	Case dismissed.
"	"	13.4%	"	"	"	Seller fined £5 and 10/6d. costs.
"	"	12.9%	"	"	"	Seller fined £3 and £1. 16s. 0d. costs.

The remaining sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 20% and the seller was cautioned.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

The results of analysis of all samples other than milk remain highly satisfactory, but the high percentage of "watered" milks is serious. At any time a pure milk supply is essential, but in war time with its limited supply of essential foods, it is more than ever imperative that the Public receive milk as produced by the cow, and not diluted by the criminal practice of adding water.

The above report has been kindly sent by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures, Cheshire County Council.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1940

T A R V I N R U R A L D I S T R I C T

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	62,593 acres
Census Population, 1931	14,388
Census Population, 1939	16,010 (including 1,819 Evacuees)
Registrar General's Estimate of Population mid 1940	15,030
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books	4,041
Number of houses built in 1940	17
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1940	£71,684
Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1940	£291-6-0

The area is chiefly agricultural and residential, dairy farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries, and the amount of unemployment is very small.

Number of Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1940

	No. of houses at 31.12.40	Houses built during 1940
Agden	18	-
Aldersey	21	-
Ashton	113	-
Barton	21	-
Beeston	66	-
Bickley	84	-
Bradley	34	-
Broxton	126	4
Bruen Stapleford	26	-
Burton-by-Tarporley	21	-
Burwardsley	86	-
Caldecott	9	-
Carden	32	-
Cotton Abbots	1	-
Cotton Edmunds	10	-
Chidlow	22	-
Chorlton	23	-
Chowley	13	-

	No. of houses at 31.12.40	Houses built during 1940
Churton-by-Aldford	52	-
Churton-by-Farndon	39	-
Clotton Hoofield	95	2
Clutton	18	-
Coddington	25	-
Crewe-by-Farndon	11	-
Cuddington	63	-
Duckington	20	-
Duddon	53	-
Edge	68	-
Edgerley	5	-
Farndon	215	1
Foulk Stapleford	47	-
Golborn Bellow	21	-
Golborn David	19	-
Grafton	1	-
Hampton	100	-
Handley	77	-
Harthill	26	-
Hatton	40	-
Hockenhull	4	-
Horton-by-Malpas	24	-
Horton-cum-Peel	7	-
Huxley	73	1
Iddenshall	2	-
Kelsall	272	-
King's Marsh	12	-
Larkton	10	-
Macefen	17	-
Malpas	351	2
Mouldsworth	79	2
Newton-by-Malpas	4	-
Newton-by-Tattenhall	47	-
Oldcastle	23	-
Overton	22	-
Pryors Hayes	4	-
Shocklach Church	31	-
Shocklach Oviatt	38	-
Stockton	5	-
Stretton	16	-
Tarvin	424	2
Tattenhall	259	4 Council
Threapwood	85	-
Tilston	99	-
Tilstone Fearnall	29	-
Tiverton	147	-
Tushingham	58	-
Waverton	133	-
Wigland	33	-
Willington	34	-
Wychough	2	-
	4065	18
		(including 4 Council Houses).

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1940

Births:-

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	99	110	209
Illegitimate	7	10	17
	106	120	226

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 15,036

Still Births:-

Legitimate	7
Illegitimate	1
	8

Rate per 1,000 live and still births 34.188

Deaths:-

Male	Female	Total
93	120	213

Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths) 13.

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.17.

Using a comparability factor of .93 this gives a corrected death rate of 13.178.

Number of persons dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:-

From Puerperal Sepsis	-
From other Puerperal Causes	-
From other Maternal Causes	1
	1

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	7	5	12

Infant mortality rate - i.e. deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births 52.63.

Deaths from Certain Selected Causes

	Males	Females
All causes	93	120
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-

	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	-	-
Measles	-	-
Diphtheria	-	3
Influenza	5	5
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	3
Syphilitic diseases	1	1
Acute infectious encephalitis	-	2
Cancer of all sites	11	19
Diabetes	-	-
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	9	15
Heart disease	28	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1
Bronchitis	6	9
Pneumonia	4	6
Other respiratory diseases	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	3	-
Appendicitis	2	-
Other digestive disorders	2	6
Nephritis	3	5
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	1
Premature birth	1	1
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	2	1
Suicide	2	1
Road traffic accidents	1	-
Other violent causes	3	-
All other causes	5	7

Diseases of the heart claim the largest number of deaths viz:- 59, of which 28 were males and 31 females. This figure is a reduction of 6 of last year's total of 65 deaths.

Cancer takes second place with a total of 30 deaths, 7 more than in 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health	W.J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	R.E.T. Chinnery, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (b), (c), (d), (e).
Senior Sanitary Inspector	T.H. Boden, A.R.S.I., (a).
Sanitary Inspector (part time)	A. Clayton, A.R.S.I., (a).
Junior Clerk Health Dept.	A.E. Bloomer, (joined H.M. Forces October 1940).
Junior Clerk Health Dept.	W.D. Mealing, (commenced duties 28th October 1940)

(a) Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspectors.
(b) " " " " Meat "
(c) " " " " Smoke "
(d) " " " " Sanitary Science.
(e) " " " and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary are utilised for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed to Chester City Isolation Hospital, Sealand Road, Chester, by the Hospital ambulances.

Accidents and cases of sickness are dealt with by the Chester City ambulances.

Other cases are removed to the County General Hospital at Clatterbridge, by the Hospital ambulances.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There are district nurses engaged in several of the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit homes in the district for purposes of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) Treatment centres and Clinics, including Clinics solely for the area as follows:-

Malpas	Infant Welfare.
Hoole	Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare.
Chester	Orthopaedic.

(e) Hospitals; Public and Voluntary.

The County General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are in addition, smaller cottage voluntary hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area - viz:- Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Large voluntary and special hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION

There were no official Government Evacuation Schemes during the year ended 31st December, 1940.

At the end of the year (31st December, 1940) the number of evacuees billeted in the district were as follows:-

Private evacuees	247
Unaccompanied children	484
Accompanying adults and other persons	106
Teachers	24
Helpers	3
Total	864

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER.

There is a piped supply to the parishes of:- Ashton, Mouldsworth, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tilstone Fearnall, Tiverton, Beeston, Broxton, Burwardsley, Farndon, Churton, Carden, part of Clutton, Coddington, Aldersey, part of Waverton, Willington, Bickley, Hampton and Malpas.

The laying of mains throughout the built-up portion of Tattenhall was commenced in July 1940, but owing to war conditions, at the time of making this report the work is still not completed.

By agreement with the Liverpool Corporation Water Committee, this supply is drawn from the Vyrnwy Aqueduct at an adjacent point in the neighbouring parish of Beeston through which the aqueduct passes.

Several samples were taken from piped supplies and from wells for both Bacteriological and Chemical examination. The piped supplies were uniformly good but many of the wells showed evidence of pollution.

The whole of the district not already so provided is in urgent need of an adequate and wholesome water supply, in particular the parishes of Bruen Stapleford, Caldecott, Clotton Hoofield, Crewe-by-Farndon, Duddon, Foulk Stapleford, Golborn David, Handley, Huxley, Newton-by-Tattenhall, Shocklach Church, Shocklach Oviatt, Tilston, part of Waverton, Cuddington, Threapwood and Tushingham.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A new sewer and sewage disposal works for the township of Tattenhall was completed during the year 1939. The full benefit of the scheme will not, however, be felt until the piped water supply is available, which will enable all premises to be drained to the sewer, and closet conversions to the water carriage system to be carried out.

Similar schemes were in hand for the parishes of Ashton, Mouldsworth, Kelsall, Tarvin, Churton, Farndon and Waverton, but the outbreak of hostilities has meant the postponement of these highly desirable improvements.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Instances of pollution of streams or watercourses continue to be discovered by, or brought to the notice of, the Health Department. Improvement is being effected by careful attention to the drainage arrangements of all new premises erected and to all schemes of re-drainage or reconditioning.

A number of individual cases of pollution by drainage were dealt with during the year but the problem can only be dealt with satisfactorily, in the more populated parts of the district, by the installation of public sewers and sewerage works.

3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Pail closets and privy-middens are converted to water closets where such action is practicable.

The approximate figures at the end of the year are as follows:-

Privy-middens	780
Pail closets	1934
Water closets	1317
	4031

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council decided to reorganise the Refuse Collection and Disposal Services, and as from 1st August, 1940, the existing arrangements with contractors were terminated and the work carried out by direct labour with a specially purchased Bedford 2 ton motor vehicle and team of workmen.

This important improvement was placed under the charge of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the change has resulted in a more efficient service due to the direct control now possible by the Council through the Public Health Department, although owing to circumstances referred to below it has not been found possible to extend the services, as was intended.

COLLECTION OF SALVAGE.

Upon the introduction of the Salvage Campaign, the Council were required by the Government to make adequate and efficient arrangements for the regular collection of salvage materials throughout the district.

The decision of the Council, referred to above, to introduce a direct labour system of Refuse Collection and Disposal was happily taken at an opportune moment and it was found possible to operate regular fortnightly collections of salvage materials in 44 parishes with the Council's vehicle, the remaining 25 parishes, in the Malpas area, being covered by a contractor.

The joint schemes have operated smoothly and efficiently and the income realised from sales of salvaged materials is being found to balance the extra expenditure involved.

(3) SHOPS.

No action under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops has been found necessary during the year.

(4) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action found necessary.

(5) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area.

(6) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action found necessary.

4. SCHOOLS.

There is a piped water supply to Schools at Ashton, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tilstone Fearnall, Beeston and Farndon.

Tattenhall, Clutton, Hargrave, Huxley, Duddon, Tilston and Shocklach are still without a proper water supply.

Privies have been converted to pails at Edge and Farndon.

Satisfactory wash-bowls have been installed in most schools.

The surfacing of yards has been undertaken at several schools.

Towards Autumn attention was directed to the County Council School at Kelsall owing to the occurrence of Diphtheria amongst the schoolchildren. A number of swabs were taken at the school and a number of carriers were discovered. Suitable protective measures were taken, the school was disinfected and closed for a period, and the carriers were isolated. These measures had the desired result and the outbreak was checked.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

1.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts)..... 111

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 250

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations..... 2

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 2

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil.

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation..... 104

2.

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 67

3.

Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices..... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 11

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners 11
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

DETAILS OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

A.	B.			C.			
				Result of Service of Notices.			
Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Number of Visits	Number of Notices served		Notices complied with.	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions	
		Statutory	Informal			Inst.	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspections)	250	5	30	25	2		
2. Cellar Dwellings.	-	-	-	-	-		
3. Back-to-Back Houses.	1	-	1	-	1		
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	8	-	4	4	-		
5. Courts, Yards, Passages.	70	-	6	6	-		
6. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets.	183	-	12	12	-		
7. Cesspools.	94	-	13	12	1		
8. House Drainage.	245	6	38	23	21		
9. Ditches, Watercourses, etc.	136	-	13	12	1		
10. Offensive Accumulations.	63	-	16	16	-		
11. The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A.1936, S.92(1))	2	-	1	-	1		
12. Offensive Trades	81	-	20	20	-		
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	412	-	4	4	-		
(Private)	32	-	-	-	-		
(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold.	33	-	-	-	-		
14. Piggeries.	50	-	1	-	1		
15. (a) Dairies.	10	-	-	-	-		
(b) Farms and Cowsheds.	295	-	20	20	-		
(c) Milkshops.	-	-	-	-	-		
16. (a) Factories (including workshops & workplaces)	47	-	1	1	-		
(b) Outworkers' Premises.	-	-	-	-	-		
17. Bakehouses (Overground)	30	-	-	-	-		
" (Underground)	-	-	-	-	-		
18. Common Lodging Houses.	-	-	-	-	-		
19. Houses let in Lodgings.	-	-	-	-	-		
20. Smoke Observations.	-	-	-	-	-		
21. Canal Boats.	3	-	-	-	-		
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits.	47	-	-	-	-		
23. Miscellaneous.	75	-	15	15	-		

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

At the end of the year the following numbers of producers were on the registers:-

Producers of Accredited Milk	407
Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	8
Holders of Pasteurisers' Licences	2
Total number of all milk producers	528
Number of milk retailers	28

The proportion of farms reaching the standard required for placing on the roll as Accredited Producers, 407 out of 528, + 8 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk is very satisfactory.

A large number of those remaining, however, fall a long way short of modern standards, and the inducement of the Accredited Milk scheme having apparently failed, the more drastic steps of action under the Milk and Dairies Orders will have to be taken to effect the necessary improvements in premises, drainage, water supply, etc.

Meat and Food Inspection.

At the beginning of the year under review there were 23 Slaughterhouses and 1 Knacker's yard in the district, all subject to Annual Licence.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into force on 1st October, 1939, gave added powers for dealing with unsatisfactory premises.

The Council, at a meeting held in January 1940, decided not to renew 2 slaughterhouse licences, and to defer the application for renewal of the knacker's yard licence until satisfactory repairs and improvements had been carried out.

As a result of this action these knacker's premises, which had been a continual source of serious complaint, have been reconstructed and modernised, enabling this offensive trade to be carried on in a very much improved manner.

Centralised Slaughtering.

Early in the year Meat Rationing was introduced and, as part of the Government Scheme, the slaughtering of animals for human consumption was prohibited except under certain circumstances, at premises other than slaughterhouses taken over as central abattoirs by the Ministry of Food.

A central slaughterhouse was allocated to this district; the premises selected by the Ministry of Food were considered inadequate and unsuitable by the Council, and lengthy negotiations and representations finally resulted in the slaughtering being transferred to premises better situated and more suitable for the purpose.

From the point of view of efficient meat inspection the centralisation of slaughtering enables the Council's Meat Inspectors to carry out 100% inspection without difficulty, whereas formerly with the large number of private slaughterhouses which existed, scattered throughout the district, the task was impossible. From the public health standpoint, therefore, the continuance of centralised slaughtering after the present emergency, is much to be desired.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

At the beginning of the year 49 persons were licenced to act as Slaughtermen, annual licences being granted to expire 31st December, 1940.

Meat Inspection.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption during the year with the numbers inspected, and particulars of each class of animal found unfit for food, are given below in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number killed	573	335	11	4091	1446	6456
Number inspected	573	335	11	4091	1446	6456
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
WHOLE CARCASES	11	7	7	14	7	46
PART CARCASES	7	14	1	29	3	54
Percentages affected	3.14	6.27	72.72	1.05	.692	
Tuberculosis only						
WHOLE CARCASES	9	106	-	-	15	130
PART CARCASES	19	14	-	-	75	108
Percentages affected	4.88	35.79	-	-	6.22	

The total weight of meat considered unfit for human consumption, by your Inspectors was:-

29 tons 51 lbs.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	11	1	-
Diphtheria	27	20	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	2	-
Meningitis (Cerebro-Spinal)	4	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	1	-	-
Other diseases generally notifiable (Erysipelas)	1	-	-
Other diseases notifiable (Measles)	281	2	-
(Whooping Cough)	25	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1940

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	2	4	-	2	1	1	-

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TARVIN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1940

Name of sample.	Number Obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Almonds-Ground	1	-
Baking Powder	1	-
Cheese, Cheshire	1	-
Coffee	1	-
Currants	1	-
Fish Paste	1	-
Gravy Browning	1	-
Lemon Cheese	1	-
Milk	30	11
Oatmeal	1	-
Pilchards - Tinned	1	-
Quinine, Ammoniated Tincture of	1	-
Sausages	1	-
Soup	1	-
Treacle	1	-
	44	11

ADULTERATED OR NON-ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

1. Milk - 9.2% extraneous water - Seller fined £2 and £1-11-6 costs.
2. " - 5.6% " " - " " £1 and 15/9 costs.
3. " - 5.0% " " - " " £1 and 15/9 costs.
4. " - 12.5% " " - " " £2 and £1-11-6 costs.
5. " -- 2.9% " " - " " £2-10-0 and £1-1-0 costs.
6. " - 6.1% " " - " " £2-10-0 and £1-1-0 costs.

Nos. 5 and 6 were obtained from separate churns from the same trader.

OBSERVATIONS

The results of analysis of all samples other than milk are highly satisfactory, but the very high percentage of non-standard milk samples leaves much to be desired.

Such a high percentage of watered milks is very serious. At any time a pure milk supply is essential but in war time, when the supply of essential foods is limited, it is more than ever imperative that the Public receive pure and unadulterated milk.

The above report has been kindly sent by Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council.